

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-24 were pending in the application. Claims 1, 7, 8, 14 and 20 are rejected. Claims 2-6, 9-13, 15-19, and 21-24 were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claims 1 and 14. Claims 1 and 14 have been rejected as obvious in view of the combination of Osamu (JP 07299955 A) and Fujii (European Publication 0331841 A2). Osamu, like the prior art describe in the background of the invention, uses glue. It would not be obvious to substitute the UV curable ink of Fujii for the ink of Osamu. First, Fujii published in 1989, and thus was known at the time of Osamu's 1994 filing, yet Osamu did not think of doing this substitution. Second, the sections of Fujii quoted in the office action refer to the ink having adhesive qualities so the ink will adhere to the substrate. This is quite different from using the ink as a glue, which will hold a layer placed over the ink on the substrate. Additionally, the ink pattern only covers a portion, such as thin lines where the ink is used for words, such that much of the area where the layer above needs to adhere is not covered by adhesive ink. Thus, even if Osamu and Fujii were combined, there is no suggestion that the glue of Osamu would be eliminated.

The present inventors uniquely realized that the ink could not only adhere itself, but that with the amount of area typically covered by writing, it had sufficient adhesive qualities to hold a layer placed over the ink to the substrate. Additionally, the inventors realized this could be done by placing the holographic layer over the ink first, then curing the ink so it not only adheres to the substrate below, but also to the holographic layer above.

There is no teaching or suggestion in Fujii that the ink could be used to attach anything other than the ink itself to a substrate. There is also no teaching or suggestion that a layer could be placed over the ink, and the ink subsequently cured.

Accordingly, claims 1 and 14 are believed allowable.

Claims 7, 8 and 20. Claims 7, 8 and 20 have been rejected as obvious in view of the combination of Osamu, Yin (US Pat. 5,318,816) and Bolt (US Pat. 5,360,501). However, it would not be obvious to combine Yin with Osamu. The product in Yin described in the Office

action is directed to a decal which a person can apply to a ID card, such as by putting it over the person's picture after the card has been personalized with the user's picture. Thus, it uses a transparent adhesive layer, which is pressure sensitive. Thus, it can be covered with a release liner which a user can remove, and then the user can push it against the card to attach it. There is no reason, or suggestion, to use this technique in Osamu, where the adhesive is used in manufacturing, not in later application by a user. The reason for the adhesive layer in Yin is to allow such a later application by a user, and there is no such use for Osamu. Accordingly, there would be no reason to combine the two.

Additionally, neither Yin nor Bolt suggest putting a UV curable layer over ink, and certainly not the UV curable ink of claim 8. Bolt simply shows an adhesive layer for attaching a hologram to a substrate, not a substrate with ink on it, that can be seen under the hologram. There is no suggestion that UV curable adhesives would function over ink, which has different properties from the hologram. The fact that the hologram is not distorted does not mean it would be obvious that ink would not be distorted, or that UV curable ink would not be distorted.

Accordingly, claims 7, 8 and 20 are believed allowable over the cited art.

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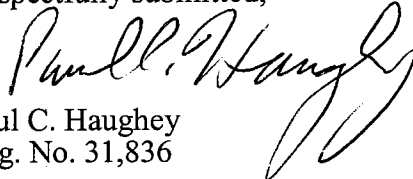
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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,


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